

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 04383 060953Z

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ACTION COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4290

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE THE HAGUE 4383

PASS COMMERCE FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENT SERVICES STAFF

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTIO, NL

SUBJ: IMPENDING CLOSURE OR SALE OF SINGER BUSINESS

MACHINES COMPANY IN NIJMEGEN

REF: STATE 191458

1. BROWN HAS INFORMED US THAT SINCE IMPENDING CLOSURE OF SINGER OPERATIONS IN NIJMEGEN IS NOW IN PUBLIC DOMAIN HE NO LONGER SEES ANY ADVANTAGE IN ANONYMITY AS FAR AS COMMERCE HANDLING IS CONCERNED. HE THEREFORE HOPES THAT SINGER'S PROPOSAL WILL BE PUBLISHED ON OPEN BASIS IN COMMERCE TODAY AND THAT FISS WILL ENLIST ASSISTANCE OF MAJOR US BANKS AND ANY OTHER PRODUCTIVE CHANNELS TO BRING AVAILABILITY OF NIJMEGEN PLANT TO ATTENTION OF POTENTIAL INVESTORS.

2. SINGER HAS JUST INSTRUCTED ALL COMPONENT SUPPLIERS TO SUSPEND DELIVERIES UNTIL BROWN CAN ASSESS CURRENT INVENTORIES AND SELECT OPTIMUM DATE FOR FINAL TERMINATION OF PRODUCTION. SINGER IS ALREADY COMMITTED TO GON TO KEEP PLANT IN OPERATION UNTIL NOV 1 BUT ANTICIPATES THAT OPERATIONS MAY IN FACT CONTINUE INTO EARLY 1975.

3. INTEREST OF ROMANIAN TRADING AGENCY IN PRODUCING UNDER SINGER LICENSE MAJOR LINES NOW BEING TERMINATED IN NIJMEGEN

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HAS RECENTLY GROWN MUCH KEENER DUE TO RUMOR THAT PRESIDENT

FORD MAY SOON VISIT ROMANIA. WE UNDERSTAND FROM BROWN THAT
SINGER IS STILL UNDECIDED WHETHER TO PROCEED WITH ROMANIAN
LICENSING ARRANGEMENT. IF DECISION IS FAVORABLE SUBSTANTIAL
NUMBER OF ROMANIAN WORKERS WILL PROBABLY BE BROUGHT TO NIJMEGEN
FOR TRAINING PURPOSES.
GOULD

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